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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 14

World Cattle Numbers Slightly Larger. Improved Feed Situation, Increased Breedings Aided Recovery in Some European Countries (Page 245)

British East Africa's Cotton Crop Recovering from Wartime Low. Crop Made Up Almost Entirely of American-Type Cotton (Page 257)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

British food plans have been upset by freezing weather and recent floods. Though a full account of damage must await the Prime Minister's report to Parliament, the National Farmers' Union estimates losses as at least 20,000,000 pounds ($80,000,000). Government plans to aid restoration and recropping flooded land are expected to include interest-free loans, special provisions for fertilizer supply and alternative cropping plans, and an appeal for emergency farm labor, probably including use of military personnel and equipment. Losses, according to the Farmers' Union estimate, include: 100,000 tons of potatoes in farm storage; about 30,000 head of store cattle; possible loss of one-half million pounds ($2,000,000) of calves, pigs, and poultry; and 1,370,000 sheep and lambs that perished in snowdrifts.

Easter Flowers in the Netherlands. Dutch bulb growers await spring thaws with much concern. The way in which thaws set in, after one of the coldest winters in years, may be a decisive factor in the valuable bulb industry, now showing signs of rapid recovery from wartime destruction, when acreage was cut in half. Under the Germans, farmers managed to develop new and improved varieties and to sell some older stocks. Some exports were made to Sweden, and to Germany for beautifying Berlin parks, now blasted by bombs. Last year, this country imported about 100 million tulip bulbs from the Netherlands. This was above the 1938 level and only 10 percent below 1939 imports.

Cuba's bumper sugar crop is rolling to market. By March 15, a total of 2.6 million short tons, up 34 percent from the same date last year, had already been produced. Sugar yield to date is slightly higher than last year's with an average of 12.25 percent expected for the crop. Now forecast at 5.8 million short tons, the 1947 production will be the third largest on record and compares with 4.5 million tons produced last year.

Australia may sell wool to Japan. The Commonwealth Government is considering a proposed agreement with SCAP for supply of 120,000 bales or about 36 million pounds of wool. Payment would be partly in cash, partly in Japanese goods unobtainable in sufficient quantities from other sources. Wool furnished would consist of types not in strong demand elsewhere and would be sold at the average price for greasy wool of the grades considered. The conclusion of an agreement depends upon the outcome of negotiations with SCAP on financial details and on the types and prices of wool to be supplied.

In China all foodstuffs are now being purchased and imported solely by Government agencies. Trade sources hold that official rejection of numerous applications from importers to bring in wheat flour and wheat may aggravate the threat of a flour shortage, expected prior to summer harvest.

NOTE: Pages in last week's (March 31) Foreign Crops and Markets should have been numbered 230 to 242 instead of from 330 to 342.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1947 were estimated at about 716 million head, an increase of 3.5 million over a year earlier. Present numbers are more than 6 million head or about 1 percent above the 1931-40 average. Decreases which were reported in all the North American countries, Australia, and the Soviet Union were more than offset by increases in Asia, Europe, South America, and Africa.

Many of the war-devastated and drought-stricken countries in 1946 made a moderate recovery in cattle numbers because of a more favorable feed situation and increased breedings during the last year and a half. In other countries, particularly where decreases occurred, uncertainty of cattle prices, inadequate domestic or imported feed supplies, and the need for expanding food-grain production for human consumption in lieu of feed grains materially affected farmers' plans to increase breedings and generally retarded cattle raising.

CATTLE: Estimated world numbers, by continents, averages 1931-35 and 1936-40, annual 1944-46

Continent or area	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	1944	1945	1946 a/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
North America	95,900	96,600	116,500	117,000	113,200
Europe	107,100	110,200	101,400	99,100	96,300
Soviet Union	36,900	48,500	35,000	37,800	41,500
Asia	272,400	283,400	267,700	262,600	264,100
South America	104,900	105,600	109,000	110,400	111,200
Africa	60,500	61,400	67,600	68,000	67,100
Oceania	17,500	18,100	19,100	19,200	19,000
Total	695,200	723,800	716,300	714,100	712,400

a/ Preliminary.

Present cattle numbers in North and South America, Africa, and Oceania are, for the most part, considerably above the 1931-40 average, largely as a result of greater demand for beef and dairy products and a favorable price relationship between cattle and feed during the wartime period. This position is still being maintained because of the large demand on the part of the United Kingdom and other importing countries as well as in many of the producing countries.

In Europe, Asia, and the Soviet Union, cattle numbers are considerably below prewar levels because of wartime losses, droughts and for other reasons. It is in this group of countries, however, that the greatest increase in cattle numbers can be looked for in the next several years. Restoration of cattle numbers in these countries is dependent on economic and political situations prevailing within the countries, the availability of domestic and import feeds, and sufficiency of breeding stock.

In continental Europe, particularly in France, Belgium, Germany, and the Balkan countries, currency depreciation is a factor of some significance to the cattle industry. Farmers recall that currency after World War I in many instances was more or less valueless and they are now reluctant to dispose of cattle for greatly reduced currency. As a result, farmers desire to hold cattle as an investment in preference to selling them and accumulating currency of low value.

At the beginning of 1947, cattle numbers on farms in the United States were estimated at 81 million head, a decline of 1.4 million or approximately 2 percent from a year earlier and 5 percent below the all-time high of (85.6 million) January 1, 1945. Most of the decrease in numbers occurred in steers, dairy heifers, and milk cows. On the other hand, the number of heifer calves saved for milk cows increased, while beef heifers and beef cows continued at a high level. The cattle and feed-grain relationship in 1947 is more favorable than last year because feed-grain supplies on farms January 1 were 10 percent higher and cattle on farms as of the same date were 2 percent lower than in 1946.

In Canada, cattle numbers on farms, according to the December 1, 1946, survey, totaled 9.7 million head, compared with slightly more than 9.9 million on December 1, 1945. This was a reduction of slightly more than 2 percent from a year earlier, continuing the downward trend started in 1945. Milk cows showed a decline from the previous year, principally because a considerable number of low producers had been culled out. Of the total, 3.9 million were milk cows. The marketing of low-grade cattle is being emphasized in order to reduce cattle numbers. Numbers at the present time are about 2-1/2 million head higher than prewar. There is some concern about market outlet after Canadian-United Kingdom agreement expires.

Cuban cattle numbers in 1946 continued the downward trend started in 1942. Present numbers are estimated to be 5 percent below the 1945 census figure of 4 million head. Strong domestic demand for beef and high prices have induced cattle owners to reduce herd numbers without very much attention being given to maintenance or expansion of herds. The condition and weight of Cuban cattle are the best in several years because of unusually good pastures. As a result, marketings in 1946 were heavier than in 1945.

Until last fall, cattle numbers in Mexico were believed to have been maintained near the 1944 level of 12 million head. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, during the latter part of December 1946, however, can be expected to reduce numbers in 1947 and to affect cattle numbers for several years. The United States is actively collaborating with Mexico in the control and eradication of the disease.

Despite shortage and rationing of feed, cattle numbers in the United Kingdom, as of last June, totaled approximately 9.6 million head, or 36,000 head more than a year previous. Numbers increased primarily because of the emphasis placed upon milk production for fluid consumption. Livestock data indicate that cows and heifers constitute about 46 percent of the total cattle numbers. During June 1945 to June 1946, however, dairy heifers with calf for the first time showed an increase of 86,000 head over the previous

June, while other cattle 2 years or older and those under 2 years showed a large decrease. Slaughter of cattle in August, September, and October was abnormally large because of reduced feed supplies. At the present time, feed imports for the first few months of 1947 are below a year ago.

Cattle numbers in Eire for June 1946 are estimated at 4.1 million head, compared with 4.2 million in 1945, and were well above the average. This year's decline apparently occurred in the one-year-old class, owing to slaughtering of calves. During the first 9 months of 1946, nearly 300,000 head of live cattle were exported to the United Kingdom.

In Denmark cattle numbers as of December 1945 had almost reached the 1931-40 average, but uncertain market prospects, labor difficulties, and inadequate protein feed led to some decline in numbers by the end of 1946. The number of cows and heifers showed little change during the year, the decline being confined mostly to yearling heifers and calves under 1 year. Dairy cows and heifers represent about two-thirds of the total cattle population.

Cattle numbers in Norway June 1946 showed a small decrease from the preceding year. Milk-cow numbers constitute about 55 percent of the total. A heavy movement of cattle during the slaughter season was due to price regulations and shortage of feed. Restoration of cattle numbers to the 1938 level of about 1.4 million head is expected during the next 2 years. Any increase, however, is dependent on the importation of feed grains and protein concentrates. Despite the fact that a shortage of feed exists and feed rationing continues, cattle numbers in Sweden increased slightly in 1946. Some increase occurred in cow and young cattle numbers during the year. It is also reported that cow numbers are expected to rise and to reach prewar level in 1947.

Notwithstanding shortage and rationing of feed supplies, cattle numbers in Belgium during 1946 increased more than 100,000 head over the preceding year and are now almost 94 percent of the 1931-40 average. All classes of cattle, except oxen and cows, are reported to have increased during the year. Cattle numbers in the Netherlands, according to the 1946 May census, showed an increase of about 133,000 head over a year earlier, but are still about 12 percent below the 1931-40 average. Because of the possibility of an unfavorable winter feed position, less desirable young cattle and old cows were slaughtered during the latter part of 1946. Dairy cows and young cattle are 81 and 92 percent, respectively, of prewar.

A vastly improved forage and pasture situation in France during 1946 brought cattle numbers to almost 15.1 million head, or only about half a million head below 1938. As a result of concentrated effort to restore and rehabilitate the livestock industry, cattle numbers are now nearly up to prewar, although proportionately high in young stock not in full production. Concentrated protein feeds, however, are in short supply, and in keeping with prewar practices, imports will be needed for the optimum production.

Cattle numbers in Switzerland, according to the census of April 1946, showed a small increase over 1945, but were still 11 percent below the 1931-40

CATTLE: Numbers in specified countries
averages 1931-1935 and 1936-40, annual 1942-1947

Continent and Country	Month of estimate a/	Average		1942	1943	1944	1945	1946 b/	1947 b/
		1931-35	1936-40						
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
North America									
United States c/	Jan. 1	63,465	66,706	76,025	81,204	85,334	85,573	82,434	81,050
Canada	Dec. 1 a/	d/ 8,250	8,246	8,249	8,834	9,506	10,258	9,961	9,747
Mexico	June	e/ 10,083	d/ 11,722	-	-	f/ 12,000	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	409	520	630	729	657	-	-	-
Honduras	July	611	524	645	-	500	-	-	-
El Salvador	July	520	680	743	673	779	-	-	-
Nicaragua		e/ 800	e/ 700	-	-	800	-	-	-
Cuba	Dec. 31 a/	4,340	5,024	-	4,897	4,500	4,000	-	3,800
Estimated total		95,900	96,600	-	-	116,500	117,000	113,200	-
Europe									
United Kingdom	June	8,462	8,798	9,075	9,259	9,501	9,616	9,652	-
Eire (Ireland)	June	4,059	4,021	4,084	4,136	4,246	4,211	4,139	-
Norway	June	1,323	1,390	1,280	1,250	1,280	1,270	1,267	1,270
Sweden	Summer	3,025	2,959	2,546	2,790	2,359	2,843	2,900	-
Denmark	Dec. 31 a/	e/ 2,997	3,108	2,833	2,760	2,933	3,036	3,041	2,954
Netherlands	May	d/ 2,734	2,693	2,441	2,058	2,190	2,277	2,410	-
Belgium	Jan. 1	g/ 1,793	a/ 1,724	1,759	1,407	1,392	1,440	1,539	1,652
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 a/	d/ 101	d/ 108	-	121	129	105	109	-
France	Fall a/	15,616	15,504	g/ 15,991	g/ 16,282	g/ 14,997	g/ 13,960	14,273	15,129
Spain	Dec. 31 a/	d/ 4,011	e/ 3,739	3,900	4,152	4,173	4,100	3,808	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 a/	h/ 905	h/ 905	960	1,040	1,020	1,000	950	-
Switzerland	April	1,636	1,663	1,493	1,517	1,497	1,461	1,472	-
Italy	July	e/i/ 7,090	i/ 7,571	8,372	-	-	6,550	6,900	-
Germany	Dec. 1 a/	19,134	19,882	19,432	19,102	19,598	20,286	-	-
Austria	Dec. 3 a/	e/i/ 2,349	d/ 2,578	-	-	2,530	2,536	2,187	2,206
Czechoslovakia j/	Dec. 31 a/	4,392	4,820	4,800	4,600	4,600	4,400	4,300	4,650
Poland	June 30	9,450	9,965	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hungary j/	Spring	1,759	1,905	2,376	2,338	2,167	1,070	1,100	-
Yugoslavia j/	Dec. 31 a/	3,911	4,181	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece j/	Dec. 31 a/	937	d/ 1,041	-	-	480	550	625	f/ 656
Albania j/		393	d/ 413	-	-	-	413	366	-
Bulgaria j/	Dec. 31 a/	h/ 1,873	d/ 1,822	k/ 1,991	k/ 2,112	k/ 1,785	k/ 1,673	k/ 1,640	k/ 1,680
Rumania j/	Dec. 31 a/	d/ 4,325	4,399	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	Dec. 31 a/	1,109	1,188	-	940	-	-	-	-
Latvia	June	1,172	1,234	1,100	1,000	-	-	-	-
Estonia	June	689	673	466	-	a/ 461	-	-	-
Finland	Mar. 1	l/ 1,792	l/ 1,893	1,541	1,721	1,867	1,694	1,673	1,670
Estimated total		107,100	110,200	-	-	101,400	99,100	96,300	-
Soviet Union	Jan. 1	d/ 36,900	d/ 48,500	-	-	35,000	37,800	41,500	41,400

Asia									
Turkey j/m/	Dec. 31 a/	5,584	7,177	8,673	8,278	7,821	7,950	8,196	-
Iraq j/m/	Spring	310 d/	374	-	484	466	-	-	-
Iran	March	2,167 d/	2,797	1,960	-	-	- f/	2,500	-
Palestine	Spring e/	160 e/	160	-	243	-	-	-	-
India j/	Dec. 31 a/	198,474 d/	205,863	-	-	200,000	200,000	-	-
Burma j/	Dec. 31 a/	6,226	6,164	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ceylon j/	Dec. 31 a/	1,617	1,618	1,760	1,710	-	-	-	-
China n/	May d/	25,000	24,000	-	-	22,500	22,000	22,000	-
Japan	Dec. 31 a/	1,512	1,803	2,172	2,389	2,419	-	2,318	2,086
Formosa j/	Dec. 31 a/	384	354	309	312	325	-	-	-
Siam j/	March	10,047 d/	11,017	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippine Islands j/	Jan. 1	3,493 o/	4,268	-	-	-	-	-	2,800
Netherland Indies j/	Dec. 31 a/	8,084	7,672	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total p/		272,400	233,400	-	-	267,700	262,600	264,100	-
Africa									
Morocco m/	Dec. 31 a/	1,994	1,973	2,381	2,675	2,749	3,023	1,814	-
Algeria	Mar. 1	879	837	911	893	896	850	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 a/	523	494	510	553	529	501	500	-
Egypt j/	March	1,768 d/	2,021	1,903 g/	2,203	2,200 g/	2,329	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		1,790 d/	2,700 f/	3,000	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya	July	5,209 d/	5,239 f/	5,245	-	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	10,497	11,636	11,853	13,068	13,100	13,000	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 a/	2,616	2,344	2,634	2,680	2,743	2,872	3,000	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 a/	5,182	5,000	-	- f/	6,000	-	-	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31 a/	516	548	563	527	556	-	-	-
Madagascar m/	Dec. 31 a/	6,380	5,172	5,640	5,934	5,957	5,913 f/	6,200	-
Estimated total		60,500	61,400	-	-	67,600	68,000	67,100	-
South America									
Colombia	Dec. 31 a/ d/	7,730 d/	8,010	9,325	10,934	11,456	12,334	13,000	-
Ecuador	d/	1,370 d/	1,300	1,160	1,120	1,200	1,200	-	-
Bolivia	Dec. 31 a/ d/	2,064 d/	1,921	-	2,445	2,400	2,400	-	-
Chile	June d/	2,426 d/	2,489	2,346	2,391	2,311	2,348	2,386	-
Brazil	Sept. d/	44,003 d/	40,807 f/	46,000 f/	42,500	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,200
Uruguay	April d/	7,372 e/	8,297 f/	7,300	- a/	6,256	6,300	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 a/	3,383	3,259	3,850	3,500	3,300	3,300	3,500	-
Argentina	July d/	31,540 d/	33,762 l/	31,460	-	33,500	34,010	34,000	34,200
Estimated total		104,900	105,600	-	-	109,000	110,400	111,200	-
Oceania									
Australia	Mar. 31 a/	12,865 a/	13,285	13,561	14,005	14,184	14,133	13,874	-
New Zealand	Jan. 31	4,188	4,449	4,642	4,485	4,476	4,628	4,704	-
Estimated total		17,500	18,100	-	-	19,100	19,200	19,000	-
Estimated world total		695,200	723,800	-	-	716,300	714,100	712,400	-

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States foreign service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

a/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1941 estimate of 8,249,000 is shown under 1942. b/ Preliminary. c/ Estimates for 1940-1946 revised, based on the 1945 Census of Agriculture. d/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. e/ Census or estimate for single year. f/ Unofficial estimate. g/ Official statistics plus an allowance for Alsace-Lorraine. h/ Census, December 31, 1934. i/ March. j/ Data include buffaloes. k/ Includes Southern Dobrudja. l/ September. m/ Data include only number taxed. n/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan). o/ Census, January 1, 1939. p/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. q/ June.

average. Milk cow numbers increased because of a slightly improved position in the importation of feedstuffs in 1945. In 1946, limited imports and low domestic yields led to restricted feeding over the greater part of the year, but as feed imports increased rationing was abolished. Available feeds were being utilized mainly for milk production and building up of herds rather than for production of beef and veal.

In Spain, cattle numbers are reported to have declined about 8 percent from the 1945 level and are now about 90 percent of the pre-Civil War level. Although pasture lands were improved in 1946 and feed grains were more plentiful, the available feed did not meet the requirements of the reduced cattle numbers. Aside from cattle-feed requirements, large quantities of feed were required for a considerable number of work animals. Barring adverse conditions, some observers anticipate that cattle will reach their normal level in 1948. Cattle numbers in Portugal appear to have been reduced about 10 to 20 percent from the 1940 level because of serious losses which occurred, owing to a series of drought years.

Cattle numbers in Germany for the prewar area at the beginning of 1946 were estimated at about 80 percent of the 1931-40 average. It is indicated that preliminary 1946-47 plans call for a reduction of cattle numbers in the United States zone, maintenance of present levels in the British area and increases in the French and Soviet zones. These adjustments, for the most part, are believed to take into account the relationship of cattle numbers to available feed, fodder crops, and grassland area, in line with the necessity for production of food crops for human consumption.

Poland appears to have made considerable recovery in cattle numbers during 1946. It has been indicated that cattle numbers are now more than three-fourths of prewar. Of this number, milk cows probably make up nearly half. Slaughter rates for cattle were reduced by Government regulation as a measure taken to rebuild herds. Cattle numbers in the acquired areas are believed to be only about half of prewar numbers.

Czechoslovakian cattle numbers January 1, 1947, were estimated to be about 4.6 million head, but somewhat below the record high number of 1938. Official Czechoslovakian policy has been directed toward rapid restoration of livestock numbers and prices offered encouraged an increase in cattle numbers. The recovery in cattle numbers from moderate wartime losses, was also accelerated by prohibition of the slaughter of calves and young animals. While a general shortage of feed existed because of greatly reduced imports of feed grains and oil cakes, large quantities of domestic cereals are being fed. The cattle trend is expected to continue upward in 1947.

In Hungary, cattle numbers have shown a slight upward trend since 1945 and are now believed to be about 60 percent of the 1931-40 average. It is reported that little progress can be expected in rebuilding cattle numbers as long as there exists unrest, fear among farmers of unofficial requisitioning, redistribution of herds due to land reform and limited breeding stock. More normal conditions appear to be necessary before the prewar level can be attained.

Further reduction in cattle numbers occurred in Rumania during 1946, when lack of feed and water in the eastern one-third of that country resulted in heavy cattle losses. Slaughter houses were prohibited from selling good cuts of meat to the local population for consumption. In view of the drought and heavy reparations, various Government measures have been taken to maintain breeding herds and work animals in the drought area. The recovery of cattle numbers does not appear very encouraging.

In Yugoslavia, cattle numbers, as of March 1946, were estimated to be about 22 percent below 1939. Heifers and cows over 2 years old showed the smallest reduction. Numbers during the year, however, were believed to have risen because of increased breedings, UNRRA shipments, Government restrictions on the slaughter of female animals, and other regulations.

Cattle numbers in Austria are now about 89 percent of the 1931-40 average. But, in view of the shortage of feed and great need for bread grains for human consumption, some downward adjustment in cattle numbers appears necessary in the United States zone.

Despite a short feed and forage situation, estimated at less than one-third of the 1933-37 supply, cattle numbers in Bulgaria during 1946 increased 3 percent over 1945, but are still about 4 percent below prewar. Greece, likewise, shows a small increase in cattle numbers for 1946 over a year earlier.

In the Soviet Union, cattle numbers on January 1, 1947, were estimated at 41.4 million head, about 1.3 million below the 1931-40 average. Recovery from heavy wartime losses appear to be somewhat retarded by limited breeding stock and by reduced feed and pasture, resulting from last summer's drought, particularly in the southern part of that country. According to the 5-year plan, the Soviet Union has set a goal for cattle numbers in 1950 at 39 percent above the 1945 level.

Although cattle numbers in Africa are believed to have declined considerably in 1946, they are still about 10 percent higher than the 1931-40 average. In 1945, a large decrease in cattle numbers occurred in French Morocco, but increases were reported in Madagascar and Southern Rhodesia. Cattle numbers in the Union of South Africa for 1946 are believed to have been maintained at 1944 and 1945 levels, about 18 percent above the 1931-40 average. Cattle prospects last fall were very encouraging because of plenty of winter forage and spring rains, indicating possibility of early grazing.

Cattle numbers for Asia in 1946 are indicated as being considerably higher than in 1945, and now approaching the 1944 level. A moderate increase occurred in the Near East (Asia Minor) area during the year. In Japan and Formosa, cattle numbers declined, but Netherlands Indies and Philippine Islands showed substantial increases.

Cattle numbers in South American countries are believed to have increased almost one million head in 1946 over the previous year of 1945. Brazilian cattle numbers in 1946 are believed to have been maintained at 1944 and 1945 levels, or very near the 1931-40 average. Pasture conditions were reported as good during the 1946 dry season (July-November) and that both protein feeds and grains were being fed profitably by dairymen in many regions. It is generally estimated that cattle numbers are increasing, but difficulties in transportation are such that no perceptible change has occurred in the market situation.

Cattle numbers in Argentina, as of July 1946, were estimated to be somewhat smaller than the year previous, but more than 4 percent higher than the 1931-40 average. Frigorifico strikes during the latter part of the year and uncertainty over the prices that were to be paid frigorificos have prevented a strong revival in cattle breeding and fattening. However with more favorable pasture outlook and considerable strengthening of prices for both feed and particularly breeding animals during the past months, it is believed that expanded cattle operations are a definite possibility in 1947.

Cattle numbers in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, are being maintained very near the 1945 level, with only Chile and Uruguay being below 1931-40 average.

Cattle numbers in Australia on March 31, 1946, had declined almost 2 percent from a year previous, but are still almost 7 percent above the 1931-40 average. Although dairy cattle are less than one-third of total cattle numbers, they represent three-fourths of the decrease which occurred during the year. The continuation of drought conditions through much of the cattle country in 1946 seriously affected pasture conditions and water supplies, resulting in cattle losses. At the end of January 1946, New Zealand cattle numbers reflected an increase of more than 1.6 percent over a year earlier. Slaughter of beef type cattle was considerably reduced in 1945-46 with no indications of lower numbers on farms, leaving in all probability a high potential number on farms. On the other hand, dairy cows in milk decreased almost 1 percent. Total cattle numbers are still more than 8 percent above the 1931-40 average. The growing season during the latter part of the year has been better than a year ago, and given normal conditions for the remainder of the season, pastures should surpass last year.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Raymond T. Moyer, Lois B. Bacon, and Kathryn H. Wylie.

WORLD ALMOND ESTIMATE REMAINS UNCHANGED [1]

The 1946 preliminary estimate of shelled-almond production in the six leading foreign commercial-producing countries is 71,400 short tons, compared with 89,700 tons in 1945. This exceeds the 5-year (1940-44) average of 59,000 tons by 21 percent, and is the third largest since 1929. The present estimates show a small decline from those made in September for France and French Morocco but a slight increase for Portugal.

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[1] A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

It is too early to make quantitative forecasts for the 1947 crop at this time, but weather conditions up to early March indicated that average-to-good crops are to be expected in Italy and Spain, the two major-producing countries. Portugal, according to preliminary data, may have only about one third of last year's output because of adverse weather. No material change in output is anticipated for France and French Morocco this year. Mid-season data from Iran have not yet been received.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1946 with comparisons
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Country	Average 1940-44	Average 1935-44	1944	1945	1946 a/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
France	800	700	1,000	500 c/	500
French Morocco	1,400	2,100	600	3,300 c/	2,700
Iran	6,200	b/	5,300	6,600	7,700
Italy	23,800	27,800	22,700	50,600	33,000
Portugal	1,600	2,300	1,700	2,300 c/	3,300
Spain	25,200	24,100	20,900	26,400	24,200
Foreign total	59,000	d/ 57,000	52,200	89,700	71,400
United States (unshelled) e/	15,000	14,700	21,000	23,800	35,100

Compiled from trade and official sources.
a/ Preliminary b/ Data prior to 1938 not available. c/ Revised. d/ Excluding Iran. e/ California only.

The 1946-47 export season to date has been rather disappointing in all the principal-producing countries. Though Italy's exports were larger than those of all other countries combined, on the basis of data available thus far, they were far below a normal prewar year. The shortage of edible oil in Italy and Spain resulted in large quantities of almonds and filberts being diverted to oil crushers at prices much higher than foreign buyers would pay. In Spain, this situation prevailed until mid-November at which time a large olive-oil production was assured and use of nuts for oil became illegal. Prices, however, which were fantastically high for almonds, have continued so to date.

Exports were also on a limited scale in the minor-producing countries. Only Portugal was able to export to strictly foreign markets, but the tonnage was limited. French Morocco exported some nuts to France and Algeria. Data on exports from Iran are not available. Since no Iranian nuts have been reported in western Europe, any exports that were made most likely went to the Near East and the Soviet Union.

On February 1, the estimate of stocks on hand in the Mediterranean Basin totaled about 20,600 tons, shelled basis, or 29 percent of total production.

The estimate for Italy was 12,100 tons, of which 8,800 tons were in the Bari district and the remainder in Sicily. It was estimated 7,700 tons were still on hand in Spain, 600 tons in Portugal, and 200 tons in French Morocco. In all countries most of the 1946 crop still on hand was held by growers, mostly because of the lack of confidence in local currency. It is anticipated that by the time new-crop nuts come into market, stocks will be somewhat reduced in Italy, exhausted in the minor-producing countries, but only slightly smaller in Spain. Italy, which appears to be in the best export position at present owing to lower prices than in Spain, will probably capture most of the remaining international trade for the rest of the season.

Though it is much too early to forecast trade prospects for 1947-48, there are some indications available at present that may or may not still apply this fall. Since Portugal is expecting a poor crop, very few almonds are likely to be available for export. Spain, because of its near-record olive crop in 1946-47, can expect a small crop this season, in which case almonds and filberts will probably be used again for oil. A continuation of high prices and inflation in Spain, moreover, would tend to keep foreign buyers from its markets. A subsidy on exports by the Spanish Government may change this situation, but to date, the Government has shown no inclination to grant a subsidy.

In Italy, two poor olive crops in succession should produce a good crop, barring unforeseen bad weather, which would reduce the demand for nuts by oil crushers. This would make available large quantities of almonds for export. If the domestic demand slackens owing to an abundant olive crop, prices can be expected to drop, leaving most of the international trade to Italy. It must be borne in mind that the situation described above can be completely changed by weather, economic, and political conditions before the 1947-48 marketing season starts this fall.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of J. A. Becker, Chairman, W. R. Shreiber, C. M. Purves, L. B. Bacon, and A. I. Tannous.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

SPAIN'S RICE CROP STILL BELOW NEEDS

Despite a steady gain in rice acreage during the past 4 years, the unofficial estimate of Spain's 1946 crop, 9,950,000 bushels, is the lowest in recent years, and 7 percent less than in 1945. Reduced fertilizer supplies available for the rice crop account for this decline. Spain formerly exported an average of 100 million pounds annually, but since 1938, production has fallen short of domestic demand. Rice consumption also decreased since that time as imports have been unavailable during and since World War II. The demand in recent years, is believed to have increased, as Spain is seeking to import rice as soon as it is available again in exporting countries.

SPAIN: Rice production, trade, and utilization,
average 1930-34, annual for specified years

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production Rough	Production Milled	Imports a/ b/	Exports a/ b/	Apparent utilization a/ b/
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average -							
1930-34 ...	117	124.4	14,558	426	c/	70	356
1939	106	82.3	8,726	255	122	23	354
1940	135	97.5	13,167	385	33	0	418
1944 d/	118	103.8	12,250	358	e/	f/ 8	350
1945 d/	119	86.5	10,290	301	e/	f/ 13	288
1946 d/	125	76.4	9,550	279	-	-	-

Compiled from official sources, except as noted.
a/ In terms of milled rice equivalent to 65 percent of rough rice. b/ For calendar year following harvest. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds. d/ Unofficial except for acreage. e/ Negligible, if any. f/ To Spanish possessions.

The size of the 1947 crop depends to a large extent on the availability of fertilizers for application on the area planted to in the next few months. Water supplies are considered sufficient to produce a good crop. Even if additional fertilizers are obtained, however, Spain's rice production is not expected to be adequate for local needs.

TOBACCO

BAHIA'S TOBACCO EXPORTS AT NEAR-RECORD LEVEL

Exports of leaf tobacco in 1946 from Bahia, Brazil, established a record high for recent years, though larger shipments occurred in the early 1900's. Shipments this year amounted to nearly 87 million pounds, valued at $16,900,000, or about 43 percent above the prewar (1937-39) average of 61 million pounds. Bahia produces most of Brazil's export supplies of leaf tobacco.

Though a relatively minor market in prewar years, Spain last year was the principal purchaser of Bahia tobacco, taking 37.5 million pounds, or 43 percent of the total. France ranked next to Spain as a market in 1946. Other chief customers were Argentina, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Most of the exports consist of air-cured and cigar-filler leaf for use in manufacture of dark cigarettes and cigars.

BAHIA STATE: Exports of leaf tobacco by principal countries of destination, average 1937-39, annual 1944-46

Country	Average 1937-39	1944	1945	1946
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Germany	20,115	-	-	-
Belgium	679	-	3,924	2,120
Netherlands	20,595	-	7,013	8,496
France	2,003	-	4,513	16,252
Sweden	779	1,706	3,075	-
Spain	1,744	39,542	16,753	37,473
Switzerland	3	1,599	1,719	3,547
Argentina	10,824	11,141	12,700	9,507
Uruguay	2,997	1,316	1,170	1,303
Denmark	191	-	1,125	5,967
Others	932	528	a/ 6,883	2,157
Total	60,862	55,832	58,875	86,822

Consular sources.

a/ Largely French North Africa.

Prospects for sale of the 1946-47 crop, now estimated at from 40 to 50 million pounds, are clouded by the apparent reluctance of foreign purchasers to enter the market. Farm prices, however, have dropped in recent weeks, and sales at the lower prices are expected to go forward at an accelerated pace. Reports indicate that prices for better grades of new-crop Bahia leaf have declined from early-season highs of about 27 cents per pound to 20 cents. Prices for medium grades have dropped from 21 cents per pound to 15 cents.

BELGIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS NEAR PREWAR AVERAGE

Belgium imported 35 million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco in 1946, only slightly below the prewar (1935-39) average of 40 million. Last year the United States supplied 19 million pounds, or 54 percent of the total; in prewar years the share was only 33 percent. In 1946, Brazil accounted for 4.8 million pounds and the Dominican Republic, 2.8 million pounds. Other chief suppliers were Turkey and Southern Rhodesia. Belgium's total imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1945 amounted to less than 7 million pounds.

Imports of cigarettes in 1946 totaled 597,000 pounds of which the United States supplied 333,000 pounds and the United Kingdom 234,000 pounds. Prewar imports of cigarettes averaged only about 176,000 pounds annually. Exports of tobacco products, principally cigarettes, destined to the Belgian Congo, amounted to 822,000 pounds in 1946, compared with an average annual export of 956,000 pounds during the 5-years 1935-39.

BELGIUM: Imports of unmanufactured tobacco, average 1935-39 annual 1945-46

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1945	1946
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	13,172	4,576	18,990
Netherlands a/	8,692	4	577
Netherlands Indies	5,365	5	24
Italy	1,337	211	161
Greece	1,197	29	51
Algeria	809	-	-
Turkey	851	38	1,278
Dominican Republic	b/	3	2,825
Brazil	1,776	24	4,821
Others	6,701	2,004	c/ 6,601
Total	39,900	6,894	35,328

Official sources and consular reports.
a/ Largely leaf grown in the Netherlands Indies. b/ If any, included with others. c/ Principally British India, Southern Rhodesia, and Argentina.

After tobacco rationing ended last August, consumption of cigarettes rose to about 60 percent above the prewar level, though consumption of other tobacco products, particularly cigars and cigarillos, remained well below the prewar rate. Last year, Belgian smokers consumed about 6.4 billion cigarettes, compared with a prewar (1935-39) average of 5.1 billion. Reports indicate that American cigarettes are in great demand.

Cigar consumption totaling only 124 million pieces in 1946 was slightly below the prewar average of 191 million. Consumption of cigarillos also declined last year - totaling only 301 million pieces, against the prewar average of 569 million, or little more than 50 percent. Usage of pipe, chewing and snuff tobaccos amounted to 22.4 million pounds last year, or about 25 percent below the prewar rate.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS[1]

EAST AFRICA'S COTTON CROP SHOWS RISE

British East Aftica's cotton crop this year is gradually recovering from the low of 148,000 bales in 1942-43, when plantings were reduced in favor of food and feed crops. The 1946-47 crop (in Uganda, Tanganyika, and Kenya) is estimated at 266,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), compared with 230,000 last year and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 344,000 bales. Though no great effort is yet being made to exceed prewar acreage, production may be gradually raised by increased yields. In past years yields seldom reached 100 pounds of lint per acre, only one-third of the United States average. Early in 1946 the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation began construction of a cotton-research station in Uganda as a first step toward improvement of quality and increasing yields in East Africa.

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[1] This section continued on page 264.

Exports from these three areas during August-October 1946 totaled 71,000 bales, 68,000 of which were destined for India, 2,000 to the United Kingdom and 800 to Ceylon. Exports in 1945-46 totaled 284,000 bales, including 214,000 to India, 68,500 to the United Kingdom, and 1,600 to Ceylon. During the 5 years, 1936-40, exports averaged 289,000 bales, including 181,000 to India, 62,000 to Japan, 18,000 to the United Kingdom, and most of the remainder to the European continent.

Stocks on hand at the end of July 1946 were placed at 148,000 bales in Uganda, 1,000 in Kenya, and none in Tanganyika. Practically all of the stocks were made up of cotton sold for export and awaiting shipment.

The 1946-47 cotton crop in Uganda is estimated at 229,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), compared with 191,000 last year and 228,000 in 1944-45. About 189,000 bales of the 1945-46 crop of 191,000 bales (planted during May to August and picked during November to March) were classified as AR (highest quality).

Plantings in 1946-47 are estimated at 1,233,000 acres, compared with 1,146,000 in 1945-46 and 1,072,000 in 1944-45. Weather conditions were favorable to the end of January, and production was expected to equal or exceed the preliminary estimate of 229,000 bales.

The entire 1945-46 crop was purchased by the British Government at prices controlled by the local Government and about 129,000 bales were resold to the Indian Government. The remainder, except 1,000 bales for Ceylon, was scheduled for export to the United Kingdom. Prices paid to East African growers for the 1945-46 crop, also controlled by the local Government, varied from 18 E.A. cents (3.7cents) per pound of seed cotton for top quality to 16 E.A. cents (3.3cents) for poor grades.

Under the terms of a contract concluded on January 15, the Government of India agreed to purchase the entire remaining surplus from the 1946-47 crop (presumably from the British Government) at 920 rupees per candy (35.38 cents per pound) for AR BP52, f.o.b., warehouse in Bombay, compared with a previous f.o.b. Bombay price of 850 rupees (32.69 cents).

The export tax was placed on a sliding scale on January 1, 1947, ranging from 14 East African cents (100 cents per shilling) (2.85cents) per pound for cotton with a value between 14 and 15d. (28.46 and 30.50 cents) to 34 E.A. cents (6.91cents) for cotton valued at 24d. (48.80 cents) or higher. The export tax was first imposed in 1932 at 2 E.A. cents a pound on cotton valued at 37.5 E.A. cents. Revisions since that time, if any, are not available.

The 1946-47 crop in Tanganyika is estimated at 33,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), compared with 35,000 in each of the two previous seasons. The crop is planted during May to August and picked during October to February.

Cotton growers in Tanganyika received 14 E.A.cents(2.85cents) a pound of seed cotton for the 1945-46 crop, in the Lake Province where about 80 percent of the crop is grown. Those in other areas received 14.5 E.A. cents (2.95cents). Prices for ginned cotton were fixed at 65.47 E.A. cents (13.31 cents) f.o.b. ginning station in the Lake Province and 69.75 E.A. cents (14.18 cents) elsewhere. Export prices were approximately the same as in Uganda.

Kenya's 1946-47 crop, estimated at 3,700 bales (of 500 pounds gross), is smaller than the 4,100 last year and 13,000 in 1944-45. The crop is planted in May, June, and July and picked in November, December, and January. About 90 percent of it comes from Nyanza Province around Lake Victoria. Reduced production in the past 2 years is attributed to unfavorable weather rather than to food production drive.

Prices paid to growers for seed cotton from the 1945-46 crop were 18 E.A. cents (3.66 cents) a pound for AR quality and 4 E.A. cents (0.81cents) for BR quality in Nyanza Province. Prices for the 1946-47 crop were raised by 2 E.A. cents (0.41 cents) except BR quality in Nyanza Province for which no change was reported.

The entire 1945-46 crop was exported to India under a single contract arrangement at 800 rupees per candy (30.76 cents a pound).

INDIA FIXES NEW COTTON EXPORT QUOTA

India's cotton export quota for the 4 months, May through August, was fixed by the Government at 800,000 Indian bales (667,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) on March 25. The new quota exceeds those for September-December of last year and January-April by 300,000 Indian bales and includes 250,000 bales (208,000 bales of 500 pounds) of long staple--over 1 inch by Indian stapling practice--250,000 bales of medium staple (7/8 to 1 inch inclusive) and 300,000 bales (250,000) of short staple (under 7/8 inch).

Allocations by destination were abolished on March 6 when exports of certain medium-staple varieties - Western, Broach, and Surat - were permitted for the first time since export restrictions were announced on April 12, 1946. The increased quota for May-August indicates the existence of a larger surplus than was anticipated earlier and may be attributed to a sharp decline in mill consumption this year as well as to favorable crop conditions in the latter part of the season.

FATS AND OILS

ARGENTINE ANIMAL-FAT EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Argentine animal-fat exports (excluding butter) for January amounted to over 11,000 short tons or about one-fourth of the total 1946 shipments. Lard exports of 5,757 tons showed a 450 percent increase over those of January 1946. This figure also represents 38 and 10 percent of the total 12 months shipments for 1946 and 1945, respectively. While most of the January 1946 exports went to other South American countries, Peru in particular, more than one-half this year's were sent to Europe, Hungary. and the United Kingdom being the only significant recipients. Most of the remainder or about 45 percent of the total was exported to other South American countries, with Venezuela receiving by far the largest quantity.

ARGENTINA: Lard exports
January 1947, with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	1945	1946	January	
			1946	1947
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North and Central America				
Mexico	28,991	1,482	53	-
Others	1,190	725	4	17
Total	30,181	2,207	57	17
South America				
Chile	442	20	-	666
Colombia	1,919	165	49	-
Ecuador	9,844	19	-	292
Peru	2,816	1,124	712	4
Venezuela	3,077	2,604	219	1,596
Others	32	3	-	6
Total	18,130	3,935	980	2,564
Europe				
Hungary	-	-	-	1,912
Sweden	2,581	1,304	-	-
Switzerland	821	220	-	12
United Kingdom	5,881	5,024	-	1,097
Others	430	664	-	-
Total	9,713	7,212	-	3,021
Soviet Union	-	1,486	-	-
Africa (total)	256	143	-	155
Others	470	31	5	-
Grand total	58,750	15,014	1,042	5,757

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

January tallow exports, 5,481 tons, were more than 14 times greater than those of the same period a year ago and 15 and 9 percent, respectively, of the total 1946 and 1945 exports. Practically all of the first month's shipments went to other South American countries last year, compared with only 28 percent this year since approximately 70 percent, or 3,800 tons went to Europe. Of this amount the Netherlands received 1,200 and Sweden 1,700 tons.

ARGENTINA: Tallow and cattle-fat exports,
January 1947, with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	1945	1946	January 1946	January 1947
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North and Central America:				
British West Indies and Honduras	2,731	1,049	-	-
Cuba	3,731	1,202	-	-
Mexico	10,840	6,429	-	-
Others	5,390	1,267	-	-
Total	22,692	9,947	-	-
South America:				
Chile	3,548	560	41	483
Colombia	3,246	696	86	-
Venezuela	2,160	99	-	844
Others	3,993	1,234	258	213
Total	12,947	2,589	385	1,545
Europe:				
Belgium	1,428	761	-	201
Netherlands	327	1,120	-	1,246
Spain	1,841	439	-	-
Sweden	635	714	-	1,691
Switzerland	398	4,026	-	185
United Kingdom	19,982	5,380	-	29
Others	2,277	3,883	-	460
Total	26,888	16,323	-	3,812
Others	347	7,368	6	124
Grand total	62,874	36,227	391	5,481

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

CEYLON COPRA PRODUCERS RECEIVE PRICE INCREASE

Although the Ceylon coconut industry has not completely recovered from the severe drought in 1945, prospects for the current season appear better than a year ago. It is expected that the volume of coconuts available for copra production will be augmented by at least one third. An increase in price to producers, by means of an export duty that became effective January 29, 1947, should also encourage the collection of coconuts.

Exports of coconut oil in 1947 will be greater, but copra will continue to decrease as larger quantities are being processed on the Island in order to retain the cake and meal to supplement livestock-feed requirements. Under terms of a contract with the British Ministry of Food, shipments will go chiefly to the United Kingdom and India to partly fulfill allocations of the International Emergency Food Council.

In addition to the contract price of 400 rupees per long ton ($120) for copra and 686.75 ($206) for coconut oil, the British Ministry of Food will have to pay an export duty of 200 rupees on copra and 325 rupees on coconut oil. The Ceylon Government is sharing 50 percent of the export duty with producers. They are now being paid 500 rupees per ton ($160 per short tons) for copra. Prices for coconut oil have been increased proportionately.

Copra exports in 1946 were 66 percent less than in the previous year; coconut oil, however, was 11 percent greater. Desiccated coconut exports, amounting to 10,800 short tons, were 80 percent above the 1945 figure. There was a heavy demand by foreign countries for this product, but exports were limited by contract with the British, much to the dissatisfaction of exporters. Moreover, the Ceylon Government considered essential coconut oil more important than the luxury item, desiccated coconut. Fresh-coconut shipments were two-thirds less than in 1945.

CEYLON: Exports of copra and coconut oil,
1946 with comparisons

Commodity	Average 1935-39	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Coconut oil	66,094	27,808	53,798	46,300	43,317	48,131
Copra. . .	67,118	128,630	165,351	113,118	127,322	43,467

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

CUBA'S BANANA EXPORTS SHOW DROP IN WEIGHT

Cuba's banana exports of 4 million stems last year were about equal to the prewar average of 3.9 million. In terms of weight, however, the 1946 shipments of 98 million pounds (1,960,000 bunches of 50 pounds) were almost 50 percent below the prewar average of 192 million pounds. Both disease and immature harvesting account for this sharp loss in weight. Bunches last year averaged approximately 24 pounds or about half the prewar level. Total production including an estimated one million stems for home consumption, was placed at approximately 5 million. Since 1935 banana exports have been almost entirely to the United States.

Banana plantations in Cuba suffer from both sigatoka and Panama disease. Sigatoka can be controlled by spraying, but in order to control Panama disease growers have planted a variety known as "Immune", which at present makes up about one-fifth of the total planting. The "Immune" is much like the Johnson and Gros Michel, except that the stalk is flexible, causing the stem to bend in the middle, whereas the Johnson stands upright. The "Immune" which appears to be less starchy than the Johnson, is not as popular as other varieties in the United States markets.

MORE FRESH FRUIT ENROUTE TO U. S.

Three additional ships carrying 18,767 boxes of pears, 2,000 boxes apples, 34,687 boxes grapes, and 683 boxes melons are enroute to the United States from Argentina, Chile, and Australia, according to late cable reports. Supplementary shipments of pears totaling 16,000 boxes are scheduled to leave Australia for United States ports during the first half of May.

The shipments by country of origin, name of ship, and date of sailing are as follows:

Argentina--Mormacland, March 20. Pears, 4,167 boxes (44 pounds), grapes 34,687 boxes (22 pounds). Destination Boston.

Chile--Santa Isabel, March 21. Apples 2,000 boxes (44 pounds), melons 683 boxes (44 pounds).

Australia--Pioneer Glen, March 21. Pears 14,600 boxes (mostly 45 pounds). Pioneer Gem, to carry 2,000 boxes pears scheduled to sail May 8, and Pioneer Star with 14,000 boxes pears May 17.

MISCELLANEOUS

COSTA RICA'S CACAO EXPORTS TO BE LARGER

Costa Rica's 1947 exportable surplus of cacao beans is forecast at about 10 million pounds, provided weather and other conditions remain favorable. During 1946, exports of Costa Rican cacao amounted to 8.7 million pounds, compared with 2.9 million pounds in 1945 and the 1935-39 average of 14.3 million pounds. The United States, which in prewar years was the leading customer, received no cacao from Costa Rica in 1945 and 1946. This was due largely to the fact that other countries purchased cacao above the United States ceiling prices (in effect until October 24, 1946). Colombia and Mexico have been the principal buyers since 1944. Europe took 1.5 million pounds in 1946, compared with 5.3 million pounds before the war.

Floods in 1943 and 1944 reduced cacao crops for several seasons; hence the 1945 exports were the smallest in years. The trees now have recovered to a large extent from the flood damage, but production is not expected to reach the prewar average for some time, owing to the increasing incidence of a fungus disease, called pod rot. Experiments are currently under way to determine the best method of combatting pod rot.

The main cacao crop in Costa Rica is harvested usually from October through December, and the smaller, or intermediate, crop from April through June.

COSTA RICA: Exports of cacao beans,
1946 with comparisons

Destination	Average 1935-39	Average 1940-44	1945	1946 a/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	5,196	4,676	-	-
Colombia	1,991	3,408	2,584	4,672
Mexico	26	2,275	117	1,261
Other Western Hemisphere	1,425	831	181	891
Germany	3,946	-	-	-
Other Europe	1,424	165	-	1,504
Asia	348	60	-	423
Total	14,356	11,415	2,882	8,751

Official statistics and foreign service reports. a/ Preliminary.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS (Con't)

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1947	Unit of weight	Unit of Currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	44.75	37.30
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	40.50	33.76
Giza 7, Good	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	42.25	35.22
Giza 7, F.G.F.	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	39.00	32.51
Karnak, Good	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	42.00	35.01
Karnak, F.G.F.	3-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	40.25	33.55
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	3-27	784 lbs.	Rupee	430.00	16.54
Broach, Fine	3-27	784 lbs.	Rupee	500.00	19.23
Sind American, Fine	3-27	784 lbs.	Rupee	580.00	22.31
Punjab ", 289-F, Fine	3-27	784 lbs.	Rupee	620.00	23.85
Kampala, East African	3-27	784 lbs.	Rupee	920.00	35.39
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	3-29	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2170.00	29.31
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	3-29	101.4 lbs.	Sol	* 150.00	22.76
Pima, Type 1	3-29	101.4 lbs.	Sol	186.00	28.22
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	3-28	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	130.00	21.39
Sertao, Type 5	3-28	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	135.00	22.21
Sao Paulo		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5	3-28	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	172.50	28.38
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	3-28	101.4 lbs.	Peso	138.25	28.05

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.
* Nominal.